Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Safety stand-down raises awareness for long weekend

By Sgt. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

A suspected drunken driver smashed into another car critically injuring several people and killing one on the parade deck here at about 10 a.m. Friday during a dramatization.

As dreadful as it sounds it's been heard and read too many times. No one likes to hear of an alcohol-related automobile crash, but it happens far

In an attempt to prevent such accidents Marine Aircraft Group 11 and Marine Wing Support Group 37 combined efforts for what proved to be a Wing-wide safety stand-down.

The intent behind the stand-down was to keep Labor Day weekend mishaps at a nonexistent level.

"The safety stand-down's focus is to show the dangers and realities of standardization, MAG-11.

Before the live demonstration, Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., commanding general, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, addressed the Marines of both units about the dangers of drinking and driving. Cindy Roark, president, Mothers Against Drunk Driving San Diego Chapter, also spoke to the Marines about the realities of drunken driving. Roark lost a daughter to a drunken-driving accident.

The staged-automobile accident was heard and seen by hundreds of Marines. The wreck involved two cars and six actors. Out of the six actors, one was pronounced dead on arrival, one was medically evacuated by helicopter, one was



drunken driving," said Maj. Thomas

A simulated dead Marine lies in the shadow of the hearse that will carry her body to the morgue. The "victim" Innocenti III, director of safety and was riding in a car that was hit by a suspected drunken driver. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

arrested and the other three were transported in ambulances.

Military Police were first on scene, and thanks to microphones and loud speakers, the captive audience was able to hear every word of what was going on. After checking all the victims, MPs radioed for emergency services. An ambulance and a fire truck from the Miramar Fire Department showed up within minutes.

The firefighters and emergency medical personnel went to work extracting and treating the "victims." Three injured Marines were transported to the hospital by ambulance. One required far more attention, and a care flight helicopter, simulated by a Marine UH-1 Huey, was called after the Marine

was extracted from a wrecked vehicle with the jaws-of-life.

When the helicopter arrived, the wounded Marine was loaded aboard, and the aircraft took off kicking dust into the crowd. At the same time, the San Diego County Coroner showed up to pronounce one Marine dead. The Marine was placed in a coffin and driven away in a hearse.

After the scene had been secured and all the injured Marines were cared for, the MPs began administering a field-sobriety test to the Marine in the car that caused the wreck. The MPs determined the Marine was drunk and he was arrested on the spot.

"When you're looking to reinforce something, you

have to have positive and negative reinforcement," said Innocenti. "We're trying to reinforce the positive, so we don't reach the negative."

The idea was to raise awareness for the long-holiday weekend. Statistically, Labor Day is one of the most dangerous weekends of the year. The safety stand-down was an effort to proactively push the safety message to Marines.

"It's the last holiday weekend of the summer and we knew that an accurate representation of the consequences could make a large impact in the way Marines behave themselves," said Maj. Robert T. Warshel, ground safety officer, MAG-

BAH News – Greater flexibility in housing options offers some relief

Compiled by Public Affairs

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Naval Administrative Message 230/01 announces changes to Basic Allowance for Housing policy that enhance rate protection for members with dependent family members. The changes are designed to correct inequities in entitlement rules involving adjacent housing areas with different BAH rates for all servicemembers and provide greater flexibility in housing options for unaccompanied members transferring overseas.

Prior to this policy, members without dependents were authorized to use the BAH rate at their old permanent duty station when they were reassigned within the United States under no-cost/close-proximity permanent change of station moves.

The fiscal year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act added the same provision for members with dependents. For example, a Navy recruiter currently residing in Arlington, Texas, is assigned to a recruiting station in metropolitan Dallas, but will be reassigned to a recruiting station in Fort Worth under

no-cost PCS orders. The member, whether with or without dependents, will be able to continue to draw BAH at the higher Dallas rate rather than the lower Fort Worth rate if he does not execute a move under the new

This will allow the servicemember to maintain financial stability since presumably there was no change in residence, just a change in PDS.

Additionally, the FY 2001 NDAA created a new option for members with dependent family members residing separately because of PCS orders overseas. For example, a Sailor living in Oceanside is assigned to a ship home-ported in San Diego. He draws BAH at the San Diego rate based on current

When the member is sent overseas unaccompanied or on dependent-restricted PCS to Japan, he now has the option of leaving his family in Oceanside and continue drawing BAH at the old PDS rate.

Previously, the member was only allowed

quire changes to be phased in over the

TRICARE beneficiaries should save medical receipts and claims-related info for refunds

Compiled by Public Affairs

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Some San Diego servicemembers may receive an unexpected refund from TRICARE. TRICARE is advising beneficiaries to save receipts, as well as explanations of benefits and other claimsrelated information, for medical services from Oct. 1, 2000, forward for possible refund, according to

a TRICARE press release Aug. 31.

The 2001 National Defense Authorization Act was signed into law Oct. 30, 2000, authorizing many new TRICARE programs and enhancements. The law was effective immediately. However, budget limitations renext six to twelve months. For example, April 1, out-of-pocket costs (copays) for pharmacy were reduced, and for activeduty family members in TRICARE Prime other copays were eliminated.

Other programs or enhancements will be effective as soon as funding is available. Beneficiaries will be notified of the changes through all available communications channels.

As each new benefit is implemented, TRICARE will widely publish the details of when and how to submit claims.

More information about TRICARE benefits is available at your local TRICARE service center, online at www.tricare.osd.mil or by calling 800-242-

See **BAH**, page 10

Navy SEAL wife captures Ms. Semper Fi crown



Former Ms. Semper Fi, Kyla Doyle, passes the Ms. Semper Fi crown to Jo Ann Padro Aug. 25 at the Ms. Semper Fi Pageant in Carlsbad. Padro, wife of a Navy SEAL, will hold the title for one year. *Photo by Cpl. Scott Whittington*

Marine has the 'Right Price'

By Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

LOS ANGELES — For one Marine June 6 will be remembered for more than just a hot summer day. It will be remembered for the excitement of hearing "come on down, you're the next contestant on 'The Price is Right."

In a recent taping of the CBS show "The Price Is Right" Capt. Armando R. Delsi, property control officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron was selected as one of the initial four contestants to "come on down."

"I was shocked at hearing my name at first," said Delsi. "A lot of my Marines kept telling me I would get picked."

Marines of station property, were participating in a morale-boosting trip put together by Delsi, according to Sgt. Brad Boutelle, property control, H&HS. Twenty Marines and three spouses made the trip to the studio for the taping of the show.

Once there, potential contestants were interviewed. Delsi's interview went well and the Marines felt he would be selected as a contestant, according to Boutelle. Delsi's name was called and all the Marines went wild cheering for him, said Boutelle.

The contestants called down to the stage were shown a motorcycle showcase and gave bids as to how much they thought it cost. One of the contestants bid the closest and went on to the next round.

Another contestant was called down to fill the empty contestant box. Then a second showcase with a television was put up for bidding. Still Delsi had not gotten a correct bid yet.

"After the second bidder went up on stage I said to myself, 'I'm not going to get stuck down here.' There was no way I was not going to get up on stage," said Delsi.

The third time was a charm. He finally had a winning bid and it was for a brass bed.

"One of my Marines had recently bought a brass bed and suggested \$2,000 as the price," said Delsi. One of the other contestants had bid \$2,000 so I bid \$2,001 and the actual price was \$2,500, so I won."

After getting the closest price, Delsi made it on to the next stage of the show. Once again the Marines went wild cheering for him, said Boutelle.

"The crowd was so loud that you could hardly hear Bob Baker let alone yourself think," said Delsi.

Delsi's next showcase opened to reveal a brand new boat, at which point Bob Barker remarked "The captain and his boat," according to Boutelle. Delsi again picked the correct price.

"There were two price tags \$22,000 and \$19,000," said Delsi. "I looked at the crowd and they were screaming 22 so I picked 19 and won."

Delsi then made it to the final round after beating the rest of the contestants on the spin wheel.

Delsi was the first contestant to spin the wheel and got 10 on his first spin and 25 on his second spin for a total of 35. That eventually put him into a spin-off with one of the other contestants, which he won.

The first showcase that Delsi was presented contained a trip to London, two very nice watches and a silver 2001 Ford Mustang convertible. Delsi picked this showcase to bid on because he currently owns a silver 2000 Ford Mustang convertible.

"When I saw the Mustang I figured that I

See **Price**, page 10

By Cpl. Scott Whittington

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

CARLSBAD — Jo Ann Padro, wife of Paul M. Padro, Navy SEAL, received top honors by winning the 3rd Annual Ms. Semper Fi Pageant Aug. 25 at the Carlsbad Cultural Arts Center here.

Shana Benson and Andrea Fredricks, who have husbands stationed at Miramar, placed in the top 10.

The Ms. Semper Fi Pageant was created to recognize and reward outstanding military women, according to Melanie Wallace, pageant founder and director.

Kyla Doyle was the previous Ms. Semper Fi and Kelly Myers was the first pageant winner. Both offered best wishes to Padro on her upcoming year.

"I needed to set a trend. Most people didn't know how to take me at first," said Myers. "I hope the new Ms. Semper Fi wants to be an outstanding role model for military spouses and active-duty females."

Doyle focused her rein on the veterans, and Padro says she wants to focus more on women's roles in the military and as a military spouse.

The pageant began with an introduction of the 29 contestants as well as the seven judges. The categories were sportswear and evening gowns. The top 10 were selected after the evening gowns had been judged, then they had to answer a question randomly drawn by their own hand.

"Competition is a lot of fun," said Melody Jillings, 11, Miss Petite Southern California 2000. "It's also a good experience."

In between each portion of the competition were performances by singer Jeff Zabel and FusionForce, a teenage dance group.

As the top five finalist's names were called, standing centerstage, they held hands as the fourth through the first runners-up were announced.

"I'm really a modest person," said Padro. "I didn't expect to win ... to me everyone is beautiful."

Ms. Semper Fi travels the country doing various charity works, visiting servicemembers on deployment and connecting the community to the military.

"I just want to be loyal to 'Semper Fi' and women," said Padro.

The Ms. Semper Fi Pageant was founded in April 1999. One of the prerequisites for pageant participants is playing an active role in community service or volunteer work. Participants do not compete in a talent or swimsuit category. The pageant creators didn't believe that talent is limited to playing a musical instrument or singing, nor do they believe that a specific shape and size defines a woman.

"The women of the Corps, whether they serve in uniform or in support of their spouses, are an integral part of the Marine team," wrote Gen. James L. Jones, Commandant of the Marine Corps in a message written to the pageant.

Operational Risk Management is 24/7/365 for everyone

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

Operational risk management for Marines is more than ensuring safety in the workplace. Operational risk management extends into every corner of every minute of every Marine's day – everyday.

"Every time a Marine goes on liberty, he or she should be thinking about operational risk management, because every Marine is a Marine 24 hours a day. That means they have a mission all the time, and when going on liberty, the mission is to come back alive," said Maj. Thomas Innocenti III, director of safety and standardization, Marine Aircraft Group 11.

Operational risk management is identifying a potentially dangerous situation and taking the steps necessary to correct the dangerous possibilities. Off duty, ORM means having a designated driver, sleeping before driving long distances and avoiding dangerous areas among other things. Any situation that can turn dangerous should be planned for

Marine Wing Support Group 37 and MAG-11 recently taught Marines about ORM at two events. The first was a seatbelt check for all drivers in the MAG-11 and MAG-16 parking lot. Every car that entered or exited the lot was pulled over and passengers were checked for proper seatbelt usage. If everyone in the vehicle was wearing a seatbelt, they were given a soda and candy bar. The driver was given a T-shirt.

If the occupants weren't wearing seatbelts, they were pulled over, verbally counseled about the need to be safe in an automobile and given a free ride in "The

Convincer."

"The Convincer" is a machine that simulates a 10-mph accident – roughly the speed a car would be traveling in a parking lot.

"When you are trying to reinforce a behavior, you have to have positive and negative means for reinforcement. For this exercise, the positive reinforcement was the sodas, candy bars and T-shirts. The negative reinforcement was the counseling and "The Convincer," said Innocenti. "Only ten percent of the Marines we checked weren't wearing their seatbelts."

Marines of MAG-11 and MWSG-37 also teamed up for a safety stand-down before the Labor Day holiday to deter driving under the influence of alcohol. The event included a drunken-driving reenactment complete with a death, Care Flight, and arrest by the military police.

"We want to show Marines that ORM is most effective at the local-executor level," said Innocenti. "Basically, every Marine needs to plan to make good decisions during liberty to make sure he or she makes it back alive."

The next level of ORM is the small unit leader, according to Innocenti. Every Marine with other Marines under his or her charge should strive to instill good ORM skills in subordinates. From there, ORM is a chain-of-command issue with each level being held responsible for their subordinate's safety.

Only by planning for the "worst-case scenarios" on and off duty, can Marines protect the Corps' most valuable asset – the individual Marine. Operational risk management helps Marines plan and take action to avoid potentially dangerous situations.

Ulchi Focus Lens: Worldwide training without worldwide expense

By Cpl. C.A. Eriksen

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

The small tent city in East Miramar has been the recent home of a Tactical Air Command Center created by Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 38 to support the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing during the combinedjoint exercise Ulchi Focus Lens. Bustling with activity, the TACC directs the efforts of the aviation combat element in a Marine Air Ground Task Force.

It was set up in the field environment as part of the 3d MAW drive to instill operational excellence and in order to provide more realistic training, according to Lt. Col. Sandy Guptill, commanding officer, MTACS-38.

'This created an opportunity for the Wing battle staff to work together in a field setting," said Guptill. "Gave it more of a sense of realism and provided for a completely different mind-set compared to last year's exercise."

During Ulchi Fo- "We rely upon the corporals and cus Lens, Marines from 3d MAW and supporting units, both here and abroad, practiced various sce- tech exercises require high tech this challenge. narios they might encounter in a combat situation. Units from other allied countries also participated.

Not all forces involved were co-located; however, some

were set up halfway around the world. Through the use of computers, each unit was linked into a simulated "on-line war game."

'We work on wartime systems that feed into the game and the game provides feedback based upon each unit's input," said Lt. Col. Eric M. Walters, assistant chief of staff, G-2, 3d MAW.

The focus of the Marines during this year's Ulchi Focus Lens gave the TACC the opportunity to conduct a larger variety of operations, according to Capt. Tom Bajus, TACC company executive officer, MTACS-

"We had the opportunity to view areas that we are not normally exposed to - movement and logistical-air support," said Bajus. "It was also an opportunity to work with our sister services to share information and learn from each other."

The TACC is composed of the air-intelligence-analysis, air-targeting, air-defensecontrol, current-operations and future-operations centers. The way the TACC is set up allows for better coordination and sharing of information between each element, said Guptill.

After running Marine Expeditionary Force Exercise in July, the MTACS staff sat down and reviewed their internal configuration for the TACC and moved some of the internal cells around to better facilitate flow of information and control within the TACC, according to Cpl. Benjamin J. Moreau, TACC operator, MTACS-38.

"You never have a perfect mix, but experience has shown that this setup works," said Moreau. "The core of the TACC brought together a vast amount of experience."

The operations center was broken into current-operations and future-operations, both of which were located at opposite ends of the TACC with the two intelligence centers between them, according to Guptill.

The current-operations center's primary job is to ensure that the TACC information is passed to and from the direct-air-support center. This is accomplished by the use of the theater-battle-management core-system, which is a multifunctional database manger developed by the Air Force, according to Bajus.

The battle management system allows for dissemination of real-time information to a large audience.

"The challenge is to make the information contained within the TBMCS as accurate as possible," said Bajus.

Cpl. Karol Kozakiewicz Jr., technical data link system administrator, describes the management system as a good example of sharing information and learning from each

"The TBMCS allows us to see the airtasking order from the Air Force, as well as what assets are being used," said

Kozakiewicz.

The junior sergeants to keep our backbone Marines in the functioning and the lance corporals operations centers, according to and below to make it happen. High Bajus, take up

"We rines and their performance has upon the corporals and sergeants to keep our back-Capt. Tom Bajus bone functioning TACC company executive officer, and the lance cor-MTACS-38 porals and below to make it hap-

> pen," said Bajus. "High-tech exercises require high-tech performance from our junior Marines and their performance has been exceptional.'

performance from our junior Ma-

been exceptional."

The air-intelligence-analysis center is responsible for identifying all ground targets for the air wing and creating an order of battle analysis, according to Cpl. Corey D. Jimenez, intelligence clerk, 3d MAW.

"Our goal is to identify enemy units and equipment to reduce their ability to surprise us and reduce the fog of war associated with any mission," said Jimenez.

It is the responsibility of the air-targeting center to designate those sites that will have the most direct effect upon commanders' abilities to accomplish their missions, according to Gunnery Sgt. Randy J. Parkhouse, targeting chief, MTACS-38.

"Based upon order of battle, we identify the highest-priority targets and do an analysis on them," said Cpl. Keith A. Scott, targeting clerk, MTACS-38. "Analysis finds them, we designate them as targets and future operations plans the attack."

The intelligence centers were kept busy keeping up with the influx of information for this exercise, according to Jimenez.

"For the intel community, this is the highlight of the year," said Walters. "It's the best opportunity to bring all of our skills together and test them."

Another import part of the TACC was the air-logistics-operations center, which provides logistical support for the TACC, according to Maj. Saul Hernandez, deputy G-4, 3d MAW.

The aviation logistics operation center is an integrated, multifunctional team that comprises the hub for management of all resources for the ACE. Working together with the TACC, the ALOC is able to reduce confusion about assets and help solutions to be

formulated and implemented in a shorter amount of time, according to Hernandez.

"The TACC dictates the mission and the ALOC provides the means," said Hernandez. "The ALOC is an on going project that is breaking new ground and gives us an opportunity to practice our capabilities."

As this year's exercise came to a close,

the lessons learned and experience gained gave everyone something to look forward to at next year's exercise.

"It is kind of like a graduation exercise," said Walters. "We spend all year learning and practicing our missions, then demonstrate our capabilities and joint-service operability during this exercise."

Last year's exercise involved approximately 13,000 American servicemembers, 3,800 of which come from various commands in the United States, Japan and Guam. Approximately 56,000 Republic of Korea troops participated in the exercise as well.

Retired Sailor thanks Miramar Lodge

By Rodney A. Stevens

Letter to the Editor

Trecently returned to Glendale, Ariz., with my daughter Robin and my grandson Chris.

Chris is a lad with Cerebral Palsy who needed spinal surgery at San Diego Children's Hospital just down the road from your base.

I, being a retired master chief, was able to obtain space at the Inn [Miramar Lodge] through contacting the manager – a real nice young man named Rick (at 76, last names are hard to retain).

We stayed there May 24 until June 15 and received the best of care.

Chris needed a hospital bed and a Hoya lift in the handicapped room, for which Robin arranged for the delivery, and the inn removed the standard queen bed so this could be accomplished.

The head maintenance man Dean Williams and his assistant Jim were more than obliging.

The housekeeping folks were nice too. One of the ladies had the same type of surgery as our teenager (steel rods up the sides of the spine), so she knew what the problem was.

All in all I couldn't have found a place where we were better cared for as at the inn.

This seemed to be information that the MCAS Miramar Disability Advisory Coun-

cil should know regarding how a MCAS facility went out of their way to help a handicapped person.

One other item, Chris has a CCI assistance dog, trained by Canine Companions for Independence, a California organization up the coast from you in Oceanside. The inn understood how he is not considered a pet but under the Americans with Disabilities Act is allowed to be with Chris everywhere. Truckee, the dog, was doted over in the hospital by all the staff and treated equally by the inn staff. All and all the visit to California while painful to Chris, was a pleasure with the great weather and the USMC hospitality.

Thanks to all......Regards, Rodney A. Stevens, MCPO,USN Retired

Mir Remarks

How effective was the last safety stand-down you participated in?



"I think it reinforced everything we've been taught since recruit training. Overall, I give the standdown an eight out of 10."

Lance Cpl. Johnny W. Farris H&HS airfield operations



"I think it was phenomenally effective. I recently checked to see how well our unit did, and we had no DUIs or any alcohol-related incidents."

Capt. Coleen Marshall MWSG-37 director or safety and standardization



"I knew that a lot of my buddies were going to get drunk, so I chose to be the designated driver and everyone got back safely."

Pfc. Matt Witz MAG-11 supply clerk

Should we have our assets shortened while politicians have money to spare?

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

Commentary

B ase closings. Once again, it appears to be the latest craze. The president and some members of the Senate and the House of Representatives say they want to give the military more money – which is good – but it comes with a catch.

In order to get the money that many feel we more than deserve, we're faced with possibly cutting the numbers of our fighting force, as well as looking at another round of base closings.

Is this really necessary? I'm all for getting more money to the military services – ask anyone. But is this the only solution they can come up with? Personally, I like the amount of money I'm making now, and I know I'd like to see all of us defenders of freedom off of food stamps. Who knows, maybe one day it will happen – but where is this money going to come from?

It's my impression that the politicians feel we can continue to do our job as well as we are now with fewer people. That maybe with more advanced weapons we can make up for the lost warm bodies. This is America's fighting force, not some assembly line. However, I think there's a way we can have our cake and be able to have a few bites of it too.

Is it really necessary for the politicians to drive the latest sport utility vehicle? Do they absolutely have to have two expensive houses in order to vote on bills? I don't think so. So I think they should be kind enough to knock a few grand off of their huge paycheck and stick it in the budget for the Department of Defense. This makes sense to me. After all, how else can today's politicians truly show that they care for today's military? What a noble gesture as to share some of that hard-earned pay with us.

According to *www.c-span.org*, as of Jan. 3 the current annual salary for members of both the House and Senate increased to \$145,100 per year. The Speaker of the House, Majority and Minority Leader of the House all make more than that. However, I want

to stick with the paycheck of the "average Joe." What that little fact tells me is that they've got a few bucks to spare. So, since they're the giving kind and we are in need, why don't they give up a few dollars per year? If they were to give up \$55,000 per year in salary, they would still make \$90,100. Since we have sergeants in the Marine Corps who are able to sustain their families while making less than \$30,000 per year, I think the politicians will live.

With 100 politicians in the Senate and 435 in the House, that comes to a total of 535. Now, if they all took a pay cut of \$55,000 per year, that would add nearly \$30 million to the budget. Now I realize that \$30 million isn't a pot of gold. Any one service could use all of the money, and then some, to make things better. However, if the money was split up evenly between the four branches of service, that would come to a little more than \$7 million of additional funding in the budget. Money that could go toward improving housing conditions, improving the buildings we work in and anything else that could be fixed.

There's also a bigger problem that comes with closing bases, and we need to think outside of the box for a moment. No one can stay in the military forever. Many retirees relocate close to a military base to take advantage of their benefits – using the commissary and the hospital on that particular base. I personally know several retirees who have a hard enough time making it out there. I hate to imagine what will happen to them should one of the only means they have of saving money is taken away. What will happen to those who paved the way for us? We need to think about it.

There's another issue as well – what about the local economy around the bases? The only reason some of these small towns exist is because of the money coming from Marines, Sailors, soldiers and airmen who call that military installation home. They spend their paychecks out in town. Many businesses in those small towns folded during Operation Desert Storm. What's going to happen to them should the politicians get their way?

I know that in the grand scheme of the military budget this is something akin to a drop in the bucket, but how else is that bucket going to get filled?

One drop at a time, that's how. We need money – no one's denying that. I just think there's a better way to do it than putting a

what you think

"For Sale" sign on our military bases.

Do you have something to say?
Do you have a strong opinion?
Would you like to see your byline
in the Flight Jacket? The
newspaper staff encourages
Marines to submit commentaries,
letters to the editor or other
articles or photographs. Story
submissions can be sent by mail
to: FJ Editor, H&HS PAO PO Box
452013, San Diego, CA 92145;
by fax to 577-6001 ATTN: FJ
Editor; or by e-mail
ombpaoflight@miramar.usmc.mil.

Taking care of business: Sergeant proves he's Wing's best



Third MAW's NCO of the Quarter, 21-year-old Sgt. Jeremy S. Brown, MAG-16 administration clerk, sets goals and achieves them without Brown reported to Marine Medium Helicopter ever looking back. Photo by Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.

By Sgt. William Napper Jr.

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

ome people are born to be Marines. Some display signs of motivation and dedication before they ever meet a recruiter.

One Marine Aircraft Group 16 Marine here proved he was the best in the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing – but for him, it was just business as usual.

Ever since he was young, 21-year-old Sgt. Jeremy S.

Brown, MAG-16 administration clerk, set goals and achieved them without ever looking back. When he was six, he began distance running, and by the time he was 11 he was running 5K races - placing first in his age group. Now he ensures there are no problems with the pay or promotions of Group Marines.

"It's the kind of person he is," said Michael Wayne Brown, the Marine's father. "When he sets his mind on doing something he doesn't stop until it's done. He just says 'I want to do

Brown's path to being one of the few and proud began in November 1997, when he joined the Delayed Entry Program in his hometown of Las Vegas. Soon he boarded a plane for San Diego, and July 13, 1998, Brown stepped on the yellow footprints at the Recruit Depot as a member of 2nd Bn., Fox Co. After recruit training and Marine Combat Training, Brown flew to Camp Lejeune, N.C., and reported to Personnel Administration School in November

"It all started for me when I stepped on the yellow footprints," he said. "They taught me to give 100 percent in boot camp.'

In February 1999,

Squadron 465 and subsequently deployed to

Okinawa, Japan, as the unit diary clerk. While overseas, he continued to run, and competed in more than 10 track and field races - winning all of them including the Semper Fit Ironman Triathlon. Six months later, Brown returned here and reported to MAG-16 to work in the promotions department. Brown, who aspires to be a drill instructor, said he was effected by outstanding leadership from the beginning and was inspired to be the best Marine he

"When I was checking in a lance corporal from the

shop told me that I could achieve whatever I wanted as long as I have the intestinal fortitude to stand up for what I believe in."

Brown graduated from Corporals Course in May and then was selected to compete on the Meritorious Corporal's Board. After winning that board, he then competed against every noncommissioned officer in the Wing for NCO of the quarter, and won that board as well. For his achievements, Brown was named as the Wing's NCO of the quarter, and stood as one of the reviewing officers for the 3d MAW NCO and Marine of the Quarter Parade with Maj. Gen. Charles F. Bolden Jr., 3d MAW commanding general. Brown's parents said they were proud of their son, and that the day's events were special for their family.

"We've always been proud of him," said Brown's father. "Now he's being honored by those who we feel are the most honorable people out there. It's very humbling."

Brown credits much of his success on the boards to his wife Sharline, who works in retail.

"I knew nothing about the military when I married him," she said. "I helped him study his Marine Corps

knowledge and with his "It all started for me when I stepped on the uniforms."

Sergeant Rafael O. yellow footprints. They taught me to give Naranjo, MAG-16 administration central Sgt. Jeremy S. Brown $_{NCO,\;acknowledged\;the}$ administration clerk, MAG-16 importance of Sharline in Jeremy's life.

> "Part of his success is his wife," he said. "She understands what the military is about and supports him. He's one of the most motivated and dedicated Marines here."

Brown also credits his success in the Marine Corps to an ethic of working hard, using initiative and having a sense of self-pride – regardless of the task at hand.

"If you take pride in everything you do, it's going to show," he said.

Brown currently has a reenlistment package pending with an incentive of Permanent Change of Station orders to Hawaii, as well as the opportunity to attend Jump

What consequence are you willing to face?

By Sgt. Mike Camacho

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

ife is full of cause and effect. Many times, more often than not, people choose their own fate.

If a person decides to get behind the wheel of a car after drinking, they are making a choice that can potentially kill themselves or others. While many of the examples of poor decision-making occur after alcohol is consumed, not all are linked directly to intoxication.

"The common denominator is definitely alcohol, but add to that youth and inexperience," said Maj. Robert M. Miller,

Station staff judge advocate. "I know that is a factor, because most of the young Marines only – generally, the older Marines have figured it out already."

Young Marines that make these irresponsible decisions are the Marines who leave the Corps with dishonorable, other-than-honorable, bad-conduct discharges and quite possibly brig time.

Additionally, incidents that occur in the

local community put the Marine Corps, as a whole, in a bad light. All Marines know that when one Marine is involved in an incident out in town, it is highly publicized. It's known that many local communities outside of Marine Corps installations throughout the world aren't always fond of Marines. According to Miller, the answer to the question, why, is obvious. The real question should be why isn't every Marine doing something to keep these incidents from happening.

"There are serious consequences to everyone involved in these events. Those involved goes beyond the Marine. People that should have done something have

"People that should have done some- actions taken; thing have career-ending actions family members grieve and ask taken; family members grieve and ask why; children incidents involve why; children are raised without a are raised mother or father - nobody wins."

> Maj. Robert M. Miller, Station Staff Judge Advocate

career-ending without a mother or father nobody wins,"

said Miller.

Miller understands the best way to fix this daunting problem, because he's been in a situation where he could have stepped up – but he didn't and a Marine died.

When he was a corporal, he was stationed at the embassy in Egypt as a Marine security guard. In 1979, Miller and two other Marines decided to climb the pyramids. On their journey, one Marine decided to drink. When the Marines began their climb, that Marine was already under the influence. While climbing, the intoxicated Marine fell 500 feet to his death.

100 percent in boot camp."

"I knew he was drinking, but did nothing," said Miller regretfully. "Many times since then I have regretted not stepping forward and stopping our climb - it would have been easy to do."

Marines live by the "honor, courage and commitment" core values, but when on liberty Marines seem to die in preventable incidents. More often it's when another Marine doesn't have the intestinal fortitude and courage to take a stand for what is right.

"The way to fix it is to take a front seat, not a back seat – even if it means the loss of a friendship," said Miller.

Don't let this happen to you



Corporal Joseph A. Scarfo, military working dog handler, Provost Marshal's Office, arrested a suspected drunken driver played by Scollon after administering a field sobriety check. The suspect wasn't able to complete any of the three tasks the MP's asked him to do. *Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson*

See Page 1 for the full story about the safety stand-down dramatization.

One Marine "died" because of this accident. Her body was placed in a coffin and loaded into a hearse. After the county coroner pronounced her "dead," the undertaker came and took her away. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson





Scarfo administers a field sobriety test to a suspected drunken driver played by Gunnery Sgt. Anthony E. Scollon, safety staff noncommissioned officer, director of safety and standardization, Marine Wing Support Group 37. The MPs who responded found beer bottles in the backseat of his car. *Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson*





A care flight helicopter touches down at the scene to carry a "critically" wounded Marine to the hospital. Three other Marines were transported to local hospitals by ambulance. Photo by Cpl. Mark P. Ledesma

Flight Jacket September 7, 2001

Miramar learns consequences of drunken driving from simulation



A Miramar fireman supports the neck of a "passenger" who was thrown through the windshield. This "passenger" received severe injuries and had to be flown to a nearby hospital. He was riding in the car with a drunken driver. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson



Marine Aircraft Group 11 and MWSG-37 staged a drunken-driving accident scene to show Marines what it would be like to be involved in a fatality wreck because of alcohol. Hundreds of Marines turned out to witness the spectacle, and many went away with a new perspective. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson



These beer bottles were found in the back of the car that caused the "fatal" collision. The MPs attributed drinking as a factor in the crash that left one Marine dead and four others injured. *Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson*

Operation Safe Crossing slams door on underage drinking

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

nderage drinking is a fact, especially in the San Diego community. With Mexico so close, it is easy for an individual who is not 21 to go across

the border where the legal drinking age is 18. Thanks to local law-enforcement officials, it is becoming more difficult for underage United States citizens to cross the border to drink.

Operation Safe Crossing, a program designed to deter underage drinking in Mexico, is a joint-force operation



Port security officers observe pedestrian traffic crossing the U.S. border from Tijuana outside the entrance to the San Ysidro Port of Entry Aug. 25. San Ysidro is the largest land border crossing in the world; with 50,000 to 60,000 people crossing by foot each day. *Photo by Sgt. Bill Lisbon*

that takes place at United States-Mexico border crossings. The California Highway Patrol, San Diego Police Department and Border Shore Patrol are responsible for the border crossing in the San Diego community, and no one is immune to their screenings.

During Operation Safe Crossing, San Diego Police detain and ask for identification any person attempting to cross into Mexico believed to be 21 and younger. All military personnel are referred to Border Shore Patrol for screening. Military personnel without his or her Armed Forces Identification Card are denied entry into Mexico.

"We're at the borders to ensure everyone stays safe. Be it underage drinkers, military personnel or civilians, our job is to be there so everyone is protected," said Chief Petty Officer David Aguilera, leading chief petty officer, Border Shore Patrol.

Upon reentry into the United States from Mexico, the SDPD arrests any person, regardless of age, who cannot care for himself or herself due to intoxication. Border Shore Patrol maintains a visual presence and assists SDPD, upon request, in handling or taking custody of any military personnel. There are plenty of incidents involving servicemembers every weekend, according to Aguilera.

"The BSP Marines and Sailors do an outstanding job during these operations considering the large volume of incidents we have to process," said Aguilera. "Everyone says Mexico is unsafe because of the crime, but service-members go down to Mexico and commit a lot of the same crimes they complain about – assault, disorderly conduct and public drunkenness."

Operation Safe Crossing is reserved for weekends when there will be a large number of Americans crossing into Mexico, but there are CHP, SDPD and BSP officers at the borders every weekend.

"We aren't there trying to get anyone in trouble," said Aguilera. "We're there to keep everyone safe, and as long as we do this, we will continue to see results."

Headquarters corporal searches Mexico for 'lost' servicemembers

By Cpl. Rob Henderson

CPAO, MCAS Miramar

iterally hundreds of Marines enter Mexico every weekend. Most go to enjoy the country's recreational activities, and when they head to Mexico, work is the furthest thing from their mind. For one Miramar Marine, two daily trips across the border was work – one of his duties for nearly two months.

Corporal Benjamin Nunez, identification processing clerk, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, was attached to the Border Shore Patrol office at the San Ysidro Port of Entry through the Fleet Assistance Program.

"I was with the Border Shore Patrol from June 26 until August 23. It doesn't seem like a long time, but it was long enough to see a good amount of incidents," said Nunez, a Los Angeles native.

One of Nunez's duties as a BSP officer was to visit all the local jails in Tijuana and Rosarito. While there, Nunez would check the cells for any servicemembers who might be detained for crimes committed in Mexico.

"Without a doubt, the jail conditions had to be the worst thing I saw. These are areas that everyone should try to avoid," said Nunez.

Jail cells in the United States are penthouses compared to the jail cells in Mexico, according to Nunez. The cells in Mexico have six concrete slabs for beds and a hole in the ground is the only restroom. Cells average 10 to 12 prisoners in an area designed to accommodate six people.

"The whole time you're in there, you can't help but notice the stench of vomit, alcohol, urine and who knows what else. No matter how much they try to clean the cells with water and bleach, the smell is always there," said Nunez.

Nunez was also responsible for delivering food, health and comfort necessities to incarcerated servicemem-

Each day, he would take three bag lunches to Cpl. Franklin Juarez at the La Mesa Penitentiary in Tijuana. Juarez is serving a six-year sentence for alien smuggling. Because there is no Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Mexico, Juarez will probably end up completing his full sentence in the Mexican prison.

"Unlike Japan and other countries that follow suit, there is not a SOFA with Mexico in place to protect servicemembers in case of an incident within Mexican borders," said Nunez.

Nunez was at the border crossing many nights when Marines, Sailors, soldiers and airmen would get arrested for disorderly conduct. He dealt with the servicemembers



Flag on the play

Robert Joubert, from Marine Air Control Squadron 1 Black Jacks flag football team, makes a mad dash toward the end zone, while teammate Bobby Little attempts to two-hand touch him during a team practice Aug. 30. The Black Jacks are currently 3-6 in the Intramural Flag Football standings, but plan to bring up their record in games to come. In the words of coach Horace Copeland, "They'll be surprised come playoff time."

Photo by Cpl. Kristopher S. Haloj

U.S. Taekwondo Team captures 5 medals at CISM Championship

By Claudia Berwager

American Forces Press Service

Lance Cpl. John Reyna, Camp Pendleton, and fellow members of the U.S. military Taekwondo team captured five medals and finished ninth in a field of 19 at the 13th Conseil International du Sport Militaire World Taekwondo Championship

Aug. 8-16 at Woensdrecht Air Base, the Netherlands.

A strong Korean team took top honors in the men's division and China won the women's title for the event at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

In perhaps the most exciting contest of the entire championship, Army Spc. David Bartlett of Fort Carson, Colo., met local hero Dennis Bekkers of the Netherlands in the men's featherweight division final. It was a heated contest between two talented and class-act fighters. The U.S. delegation did its best to "out-chant" the local crowd that packed the stands.

In the end, with the contest tied 3-3, the referees awarded the gold to Bekkers for superiority. Bartlett won the crowd's respect

13th Military Championship 2001 World

hearts as when he approached Bekkers and lifted him into the air for them to see.

The crowd went wild. It was a moment truly indicative of the CISM motto: "Friendship Through Sport." Bartlett received the "Fair Play Award" for sportsmanship at the end of the tournament.

Rounding out the U.S. team were Air Force Staff Sgt. Reynaldo Martinez of Sembach Air Base, Germany; Army Pvt. Yvonne Marte of Fort Campbell, Ky.; Army Pfc. Simon Behrndt of Fort Hood, Texas; and Staff Sgt. Kevin Williams and Pvt. Louis Torres from the World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson. Army Sgt. Bongseok Kim of Camp Essayons, South Korea, was head coach, and Curtis Brown from the Air Force was his assistant.



Tournament kicks off

A forward from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton's soccer team centers the ball during Wednesday's match against the Marine Corps Air-**Ground Combat Center** 29 Palms soccer team. **The Marine Corps' West Coast Regional Soccer** Tournament is taking place at MCRD San Diego through Sunday. This tournament is a precursor to the All-Marine Soccer Team tryouts and the subsequent Armed Forces Championship which takes place Sept. 29 through Oct. 6 in Everett, Wash. Check next week's Flight Jacket for complete tournament results. Photo by Cpl. Rob Henderson

What's happening at the USO

Monday – Poker at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday – Minnnesota Good Thing (beef and mushroom dish) served at 6 p.m. and bingo to follow.

Thursday – Nachos served at 6:30 p.m. Friday – Free open pool, open to all active-duty military and their guests.

Sept. 15 – You-pick-we-pay, pay-perview movies and popcorn at 6 p.m.

For more information about upcoming USO events and specials call Jennifer Stander at (619) 235-6503.

Hang 10 for spinal cord research

Catch a wave with the Sunset Cliffs Surfing Association as they join forces with Cal-Diego Paralyzed Veterans Association for the 8th Annual Tony Mezzadri Surf Contest. The contest will be held Sept. 22 at Ocean Beach Pier and proceeds will be used for spinal cord injury research.

The tournament began as a benefit for Mezzadri after he severely injured his spinal cord in a surfing accident in 1994.

To help kick off the surf contest, there will be a spaghetti dinner and live music at the Masonic Center (1711 Sunset Cliffs Blvd.) Sept. 15. The dinner is open to the public and food will be served from 4 to 8 p.m.

The surf contest will begin at 7 a.m. Sept. 22 and is open to the first 96 surfers. There are divisions for short boards and long boards.

For a registration form, call 450-1443.

You're invited to a flight suit formal

The Marine Officers Spouses Club invites you to its membership drive at Hangar 0, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, and to help support the MCAS Food Locker. The MOSC will award prizes for the best flight suit/uniform and decorated tables.

There will also be an auction, a live performance by the 3d Marine Aircraft Wing Band, static aircraft displays, and food and drink.

For details call (619) 543-7318.

USO holds HBO's airing of "Band of Brothers"

The downtown USO will show the 10-part series weekly on its large-screen television Sundays at 9 p.m.

It will also be shown during Fleet Week on board the USS Belleau Wood.

Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks produced the series and it chronicles the achievements of E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. It was based

on a book written by Stephen E. Ambrose.

Family Footlocker makes parenting easier

Learn new tips, tricks and techniques for better parenting in "Family Footlocker," a class sponsored by Miramar's Counseling Center and New Parent Support Group.

Classes are Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. through Oct. 2 at the Murphy Canyon Chapel (in the Rear Admiral White Chapel). Participants are welcome to bring a brown-bag dinner. Limited child care will be provided. Registration is required.

For more information call 577-9812 or (619) 524-0805.

SNCO Club Features DJ Fridays

The Staff NCO Club now has a disc jockey on-site from 4:30 to 10:30 p.m.

For more information about the Staff NCO Club events, call 577-4808.

MCRD Museum to hold dinner

The Marine Corps Recruit Depot Museum Historical Society is holding its annual Globe & Anchor dinner Sept. 15 at the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego.

Proceeds go toward assisting the museum educational programs and in acquiring Marine Corps artifacts.

For more information about the dinner or the society call (619) 542-4426 or e-mail *Pat@usmchistory.com*.

TRICARE Senior Prime to end

Over the last several years, TRICARE Senior Prime was one of several test programs utilized by Department of Defense to evaluate its ability to provide health care services to its over-age-65 beneficiaries.

With direction from the Fiscal Year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act, the Department of Defense will implement TRICARE for Life to meet this need. Consequently, the TRICARE Senior Prime program will end Dec. 31.

Clinic holds self-exam workshop

The Branch Medical Clinic will hold a breast self-examination workshop Sept. 24 and Oct. 17 from 10 to 11 a.m.

EFMP meeting scheduled

The Exceptional Family Member Program will hold a meeting for the Advisory Committee for Persons With Disabilities Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the Friendship Center next to Navy Relief.

For more information call Gunnery Sgt. Larry D. Thomas at 577-4098.

Free movies from MCCS <u>Wednesday</u> 7 p.m. The Score **Body Building Championships Thursday Saturday** (PG) 2 p.m. (PG-13) 6:30 p.m. Cats and Dogs **Jurassic Park 3 Lara Croft: Tomb Raider** (PG-13) 8:30 p.m. America's Sweethearts The Station theater is equipped with a 35 mm projection system and Dolby Digital Surround Sound. All movies **Sunday** Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within (PG-13) 1 p.m. are free for DoD ID card holders and their guests. For movie (R) 6:30 p.m. synopses see the current theater flyer or call 577-4143. **Kiss of the Dragon**

BAH.

continued from page 1

to use the lower Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton rate based upon dependents' location or he could have moved his family to a "designated place" and draw BAH at the local rate.

Not everyone is covered under this policy change. Servicemembers who execute fully-

funded orders within the continental United States and choose not to reside with their families are not covered under the change.

Servicemembers who are eligible for the higher BAH rate, are eligible as long as their PCS date is after July 1.

According to the message, no retroactive payments will be paid for periods prior to July 1.

Price,

continued from page 2

would take this showcase because I knew about the price range of the Mustang having just bought one a year ago," said Delsi.

Delsi's guess was close enough to the actual price of the showcase that he now owns two silver Ford Mustang convertibles.

The other Marines who had remained relatively calm until that point, could no longer hold back their enthusiasm and rushed the stage to congratulate Delsi on his win.

"They all just rushed the stage," said Delsi. "It was pure pandemonium and everyone was completely excited."

Delsi was amazed at just how quickly the entire contest took. It took an hour to tape the whole show.

"It was like a dream," said Delsi. "It all happened so fast it seemed."

Delsi has since taken out his boat on Mission Bay with his Marines and every time they go they always think back on the day that the price was right.

The show is scheduled to air Sept. 17 as the 30th anniversary of the Price Is Right. Delsi and his Marines plan on watching and celebrating it at the enlisted club.

Volunteer opportunities

◆ The Wetland Avengers, an Aquatic Adventures Science Education Foundation project, is seeking military volunteers to help restore the wetland habitats of San Diego County.

For more information contact Melissa Studer at 274-0724.

♦ If you are looking for volunteer opportunities, the United Service Organizations would love to have you help. Opportunites are open for day-time help all days of the week.

Please contact Jennifer Stander at (619) 235-6503 for more information.

♦ AIDS Walk San Diego needs volunteers Oct. 7, to help set up, man the booths, provide security and register other volunteers.

The AIDS Walk raises money for HIV and AIDS awareness programs, research, and screenings.

For more information contact Marcella Martin at (619) 260-1068.

♦ Help beautify the San Diego community by planting trees. Most plantings take place Saturday mornings. The project goes until Oct. 27.

For more information contact Patrick Stevenson at (619) 697-0151.

◆ The BEST Mentor Program is look-

ing for mentors to help troubled children in the San Diego area. The program needs volunteers who have at least one day a week to spend 2-3 hours with a child.

The time should be spent doing positive, meaningful activities that will instill a sense of value in the child.

For more information call Calvin Clayton at (619) 297-8111.

◆ Do you have an interest in military aviation history? The Flying Leatherneck Museum is looking for volunteer docents and gift shop attendants.

The museum has aircraft from World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Persian Gulf War. The museum is located on Station and is open to the public.

Call the Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation at 693-1723 for details.

- ◆ The PARTNERS mentor program is seeking volunteers for at-risk youth ages 10-17. Call Venesa at (619) 584-5797.
- ♦ City of Hope needs volunteers for its 2001 Walk For Hope Against Breast Cancer Oct. 14 at 5:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to set up, direct traffic, man booths and other activities.

For more information, call (619) 544-1913.



Lost.

continued from page 8 who were lucky enough to be arrested on the U.S. side of the border, and the detained individuals usually lied about their service.

"A lot of the servicemembers who are arrested at the border try to deny they're in the service. That's stupid, because you can tell just by looking at the haircut, the style of dress and just the way they act," said Nunez. "Basically, if you lie to BSP, we're going to find out who you are and where you work. Then it will be much harder on you."

Although Nunez's service as a BSP officer brought him face-to-face with many difficult problems, the job had a lot of benefits too.

"The best thing that I did while on BSP was when I helped out in a criminal investigation and recovered a servicemember's stolen vehicle from the hills of Cantamar, an area just south of Rosarito," said Nunez. "The servicemember was extremely happy to find that his vehicle was road-worthy and in pretty good shape – the only thing missing was the radio."

Besides the on-duty benefit of being

able to help others, Nunez also enjoyed the location. He took his off-duty time to enjoy the cultural attractions Mexico has to offer.

"There's a ton of things to do in Mexico. Drinking shouldn't be your only experience of the Mexican culture. Go check out the bullfights, do some shopping, go to the beaches, take a weekend drive to Ensenada, go fishing, go sandduning in Puerto Neuvo, mingle with the people of Mexico. You'll be surprised how much people will want to share with you if you show the slightest bit of interest to the culture," recommended Nunez. "There's more to Mexico than just cheap booze and tacos."

Whatever a servicemember decides to do in Mexico, he or she should always remember to respect the laws, customs and courtesies of the country. Being disrespectful, especially to law-enforcement officers, is a sure bet for trouble.

"We go down to Mexico thinking we're pretty much untouchable as Americans, and that gets us in trouble," said Nunez. "If you wouldn't think about doing something in the United States, don't think it's alright to do it in someone else's backyard."

Nunez plans to get out of the Marine Corps at the end of this year, but he knows it won't be long until he settles in the San Diego area for good.

"Right now, I just want to go to college, find a good job and move back to San Diego. I just love this area and what it has to offer," said Nunez.

Nunez went to Mexico to fill a billet,however, he has come away with a lifelong lesson.

"You have to be a good representative of the United States and the Marine Corps at all times. A good impression goes a long way – even in Mexico," said Nunez.

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